

1st The WHIGS Title

TO BE

SOLE-FAVOURITES.

Examin'd.

19. Sept. 1714.

THE wild and intemperate Joy which has appear'd in Publick for the Death of Her late Majesty, cannot but move every sober and reasonable Man to enquire, what Pretences are made for it, and what mighty Expectations these Men conceive upon this Change, which are able to transport them so far beyond the Bounds of Gratitude, Duty, common Decency and Humanity.

That no just Cause can be assigned for such Brutal Indignities, is evident to all Men who have felt the mild and gentle Influence of Her Reign. And it was hard to imagine what Colours, what Pretence these Men would offer to the World for such extraordinary Proceedings.

I kept one Day into the *Coffee-House* to inform myself into this Particular; and mixing with a Crowd of these tumultuous Rejoycers, I ventured to expostulate with them up in this amazing Conduct. But I was taken up short by one of them: *What Reason, Sir? Why the Devil stir you, Boys; and the Whigs shall come once more into Power and Play.* — *Ay,* says another, *My Lord Chancellor shall be removed, and the R——— succeed; 'tis the least we can do for him; We'll make a general Sweep in Offices and Employments.* — *The Clergy shall be humbled,* cries a Third; *there is now an End to the Reign of their Cloath.*

It is enough, says I, retiring with Indignation, and doubtful in myself whether their *Wickedness* or *Folly* was Superior. Their *Wickedness*, to rejoice for such Reasons at the Death of so excellent a Princess; or their *Folly* to declare such Reasons of their Rejoycing: At last the only Conclusion I could make in Favour of them was this, *That their Behaviour could not be charged with much Hypocrisy.*

I sat down in the Humour I then found myself, and took Pen, Ink, and Paper, resolving to shew the World, and these Gentlemen, especially, [if they will see] what little Reason they have to institute these Triumphs, and how possible it is their high Expectations may prove ill-grounded and imaginary.

How far these Extravagancies may tend to disappoint their Hopes of being *sole in Favour* is easily foreseen. 'Tis a new and singular Art of paying Court to a Monarch by insulting the Affairs, yet warm, of a Queen so much to be admired and lov'd for all those Princely Virtues wherewith God and Nature had endowed Her. It implies a most dishonourable Reflection upon His Majesty, and supposes His Royal Breast capable of the same base Passions with themselves; and it is no tacit Declaration to Him what kind of Regards, what Duty, what Obedience He is to expect from them, if He performs not the Condition, in which Her late Majesty had fail'd, of disposing all Things at their Will and Pleasure.

And in full Confidence that the unlimited Power which they have invested themselves will be approv'd, they have presumptuously entered upon the Execution of it; they have displaced already, in Imagination, each unhappy Mortal who had incurred their Displeasure; in their own Language, *They have made a general Sweep in Offices and Employments,* and signified to His Majesty

what He is to do at His Entrance on His Kingdom. This Usurpation of His Authority is a wild Argument to entitle them to His Favour; and their *Menaces* to the Clergy and to the Faithful Servants of the late Queen include such Variety of Affronts to that Great Name with which they are so free, that our Language has not Words to express their Irreverence to it. How glorious would these *Men* paint the *Majesty of Britain*, when they represent Him to us as the *Minister* of their private Vengeance? Are these the Marks of Veneration to a Prince whom they profess to honour? Or do they always treat *Majesty* alike, and with the same Insolence, whether they profess to serve or to disserve it? Since then the Living is no better us'd, why are we surprized at their Outrages to the Dead?

But after all these angry Denunciations against the *Tories* and the *Clergy*, may we presume calmly to enquire the Reasons of them; may it be ask'd, as of their *Master* once it was, *Why? what Evil have they done?*

It seems the *Whigs* had resolv'd to secure the *Protestant Succession* in the Line of *Hanover*, by allowing no body to declare for it but themselves. In order to defend that Succession the Minor Part of Three Kingdoms, out of Power, refuse to admit the *Tories*; the Major Part, in Power, to any share in that Defence. This is their present *Morib*; this is the Crime of the *Tories*: In short, they had assur'd with such vehemence and repeated Asseverations, that the whole Body of the *Tories* were engaged in the *Protestant's* Interest; they had made it so clear by asserting it so often, that it was refuted if their Veracity were called in Question by a seeming Doubt.

The whole Course of the *Tories* Behaviour must have made this Out-cri appear ridiculous to reasonable Men; their hearty Addresses, that especially of the Commons at the opening of the present *Parliament*, were enough to satisfy all, but such as imagine there is no Sincerity left among *Mankind*; and the Price put upon the *Pretender's* Head was enough to satisfy even those too.

The Time came (so was the Will of Heaven) that the Best of Queens was called to receive the Crown of all her Virtue; a Crown which no *Faction* can make uneasy, no Malice of her Enemies can fill with *Thorns*. Then the Truth of all these Things were to be try'd.

Well! do not the *Tories* appear in Arms for the *Pretender* at this Conjunction? Do not the *Commons* vote immediately in his Favour? Not at all. The King is proclaimed with all due Solemnity and Acclamation; the *Tories* shew themselves to be governed by a steady Principle; their Loyalty dies not with the Prince, but is transferred to the rightful Successor; and they approve themselves to *GEORGE* the same faithful and obedient Subjects that they were to *ANNE*. They Address him in a manner that carries Openness and Sincerity in the Front of it; they fear not to offend him by paying just Honours to the Queen, and they insist not long, lest he should have reason to be offended. They have found the means, which a true Sense of Gratitude and Loyalty alone can teach, of tempering contrary Passions so, as neither to affront the

Living

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Living, not be ungrateful to the Dead. They have done all that Men could do in this important Conjunction, to secure his Majesty's Succession to the Crown of these Kingdoms, and to preserve the Publick Peace and Credit of the Nation. Thus they discover themselves to be not merely Theorists in Loyalty; Men of Speculative Virtue only; but as they profess the purest Principles of it, so they live and act up to that Profession. A Character in which the Greatest and the Best of Men may Glory.

Since then the *Whigs* are not the only Friends to the Succession, since the Vanity of that Pretence appears, What new Title have they to a Monopoly of Favour? Why are the *Tories* pursued with the same Threatnings, when the groundless Clamours and false Accusations brought against them are refused and deserted? Shall the false Accusers, instead of Shame and Repentance, still insist upon their Condemnation, as if they had been Guilty?

It would become them better, if I may advise, to free themselves from the Charge of that Guilt which they unjustly lay upon others. The *Tories* have acquitted themselves with Honour; let the *Whigs* do it if they can. We all remember when a French Invasion was sometime ago attempted upon Scotland; we know who were then in Power; we know what Preparations were made to repel that Invasion; the Publick has seen the Collection of Orders issued at that time, and can judge how well they were contrived to disappoint all Humane Means for our Defence. But Providence is All-sufficient! and we were delivered. And we know how little has been done by those Gentlemen ever since, except their clamorous Imputations upon others, to remove these Suspensions.

But if they vouchsafe not to purge themselves; if they imagine their own High Characters raised above all jealousy, while they allow not the clearest Demonstrations of another's Innocence, let them condescend at least to inform us, what shall now become of their Doctrine of Resistance, and their Principles of Revolution? Will they maintain or discard them? Will they maintain them in Defiance of his Majesty's Authority? Or will they renounce them and be converted? Or, what is most likely, will they lay them by till they can again produce and furnish them with Safety? Some ill-natured Body would make himself merry with this unfortunate Dilemma, but

I am really in Pain for them; and cannot foresee what they will do. I presume they will not hope to recommend themselves to the Royal Favour by professing Resistance; and how shall the Republican Scheme be consulted, and they consistent with themselves if they do otherwise? The shortest way, in my Opinion, to avoid the Difficulty is, to deny that ever there were Whig-principles, and to charge them roundly, as they did the Pretender, upon the *Tories*.

It is easy now to collect the Sum of these Mens Pretensions, They have been the only Friends to the Succession; for this you have their own Affirmative; And their Claim is, To be the only Favourites. But the Bottom is false and sandy, on which this Expectation is built, and 'tis likely they have heard what Fate attends a House raised upon such Foundations. But whatever their Hopes, whatever their Threatnings are, the *Tories* are in no pain about them. His Majesty will expect to reign over all His Subjects, and will exclude none from His Favour, but those who are unworthy of it. If then the *Whigs* would recommend themselves in earnest to His Majesty's Esteem, let them emulate the *Tories*, and study to deserve it. Let them learn to approach Majesty with the Reverence due to it. Let them not dare to abuse the Royal Name to vent their Fury on their Fellow-Subjects. Let the Evil Spirit of Lying be dispossest; let them try to gain a little Reputation of Veracity, which they have so justly forfeited. And let them disclaim for ever those pernicious Principles, which loose the Bands of Government, and destroy the Peace of Humane Society.

These are the only Arts which can commend them to a Prince who comes trained and exercised in all the Kingly Virtues of ruling well. His Quick-sight will readily distinguish between that Obedience which is founded on a Principle of Duty, and the Submissions of those who are Subjects during Pleasure. The *Tories* are conscious of their own Integrity, and Loyal Affections to his Majesty; they have an equal and discerning Judge in Him, and therefore are assured of his Protection, and his Favour too. They rejoice sincerely at his Accession to the Crown, and view with Pleasure the Prospect of that happy Scene, which his consummate Virtue, Wisdom, and Experience, disclose to Britain.

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